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(6) A covered USG attorney who has been duly assigned to represent an individual who is subject to disciplinary action or administrative proceedings, or to provide legal assistance to an individual, has, for those purposes, an attorney-client relationship with that individual.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.33 Client under a disability.

(a) *Client under a disability:*

(1) When a client's ability to make adequately considered decisions in connection with the representation is impaired, whether because of minority, mental disability, or for some other reason, the covered attorney shall, as far as reasonably possible, maintain a normal attorney-client relationship with the client.

(2) A covered attorney may seek the appointment of a guardian or take other protective action with respect to a client only when the covered attorney reasonably believes that the client cannot adequately act in the client's own interest.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.34 Safekeeping property.

(a) *Safekeeping property.* Covered USG attorneys shall not normally hold or safeguard property of a client or third persons in connection with representational duties. See § 776.27 of this part.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.35 Declining or terminating representation.

(a) *Declining or terminating representation:*

(1) Except as stated in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, a covered attorney shall not represent a client or, when representation has commenced, shall seek to withdraw from the representation of a client if:

(i) The representation will result in violation of the Rules contained in this subpart or other law or regulation;

(ii) The covered attorney's physical or mental condition materially impairs his or her ability to represent the client; or

(iii) The covered attorney is dismissed by the client.

(2) Except as stated in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, a covered attorney

may seek to withdraw from representing a client if withdrawal can be accomplished without material adverse effect on the interests of the client, or if:

(i) The client persists in a course of action involving the covered attorney's services that the covered attorney reasonably believes is criminal or fraudulent;

(ii) The client has used the covered attorney's services to perpetrate a crime or fraud;

(iii) The client insists upon pursuing an objective that the covered attorney considers repugnant or imprudent;

(iv) In the case of covered non-USG attorneys, the representation will result in an unreasonable financial burden on the attorney or has been rendered unreasonably difficult by the client; or

(v) Other good cause for withdrawal exists.

(3) When ordered to do so by a tribunal or other competent authority, a covered attorney shall continue representation notwithstanding good cause for terminating the representation.

(4) Upon termination of representation, a covered attorney shall take steps to the extent reasonably practicable to protect a client's interests, such as giving reasonable notice to the client, allowing time for assignment or employment of other counsel, and surrendering papers and property to which the client is entitled and, where a non-USG attorney provided representation, refunding any advance payment of fee that has not been earned. The covered attorney may retain papers relating to the client to the extent permitted by law.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.36 Prohibited sexual relations.

(a) *Prohibited sexual relations:*

(1) A covered attorney shall not have sexual relations with a current client. A covered attorney shall not require, demand, or solicit sexual relations with a client incident to any professional representation.

(2) A covered attorney shall not engage in sexual relations with another attorney currently representing a party whose interests are adverse to

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those of a client currently represented by the covered attorney.

(3) A covered attorney shall not engage in sexual relations with a judge who is presiding or who is likely to preside over any proceeding in which the covered attorney will appear in a representative capacity.

(4) A covered attorney shall not engage in sexual relations with other persons involved in the particular case, judicial or administrative proceeding, or other matter for which representation has been established, including but not limited to witnesses, victims, co-accuseds, and court-martial or board members.

(5) For purposes of this Rule, “sexual relations” means:

(i) Sexual intercourse; or

(ii) Any touching of the sexual or other intimate parts of a person or causing such person to touch the sexual or other intimate parts of the covered attorney for the purpose of arousing or gratifying the sexual desire of either party.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.37 Advisor.

(a) *Advisor.* In representing a client, a covered attorney shall exercise independent professional judgment and render candid advice. In rendering advice, a covered attorney should refer not only to law but to other considerations such as moral, economic, social, and political factors that may be relevant to the client’s situation.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.38 Mediation.

(a) *Mediation:*

(1) A covered attorney may act as a mediator between individuals if:

(i) The covered attorney consults with each individual concerning the implications of the mediation, including the advantages and risks involved, and the effect on the attorney-client confidentiality, and obtains each individual’s consent to the mediation;

(ii) The covered attorney reasonably believes that the matter can be resolved on terms compatible with each individual’s best interests, that each individual will be able to make adequately informed decisions in the matter, and that there is little risk of ma-

terial prejudice to the interests of any of the individuals if the contemplated resolution is unsuccessful; and,

(iii) The covered attorney reasonably believes that the mediation can be undertaken impartially and without improper effect on other responsibilities the covered attorney has to any of the individuals.

(2) While acting as a mediator, the covered attorney shall consult with each individual concerning the decisions to be made and the considerations relevant in making them, so that each individual can make adequately informed decisions.

(3) A covered attorney shall withdraw as a mediator if any of the individuals so requests, or if any of the conditions stated in paragraph (a)(1) of this section is no longer satisfied. Upon withdrawal, the covered attorney shall not represent any of the individuals in the matter that was the subject of the mediation unless each individual consents.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.39 Evaluation for use by third persons.

(a) *Evaluation for use by third persons:*

(1) A covered attorney may undertake an evaluation of a matter affecting a client for the use of someone other than the client if:

(i) The covered attorney reasonably believes that making the evaluation is compatible with other aspects of the covered attorney’s relationship with the client, and,

(ii) The client consents after consultation.

(2) Except as disclosure is required in connection with a report of an evaluation, information relating to the evaluation is otherwise protected by § 776.25 of this part.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 776.40 Meritorious claims and contentions.

(a) *Meritorious claims and contentions.* A covered attorney shall not bring or defend a proceeding, or assert or controvert an issue therein, unless there is a basis for doing so that is not frivolous, which includes a good faith argument for an extension, modification, or